

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to express our serious concerns about the distribution formula used to allocate the \$100 million in recently released emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds. Needless to say, the emergency LIHEAP funding was designed to deal with emergency situations -- whether it is a dramatic price spike in home heating oil in the Northeast during the winter, or a major heat wave in the South during the summer.

Clearly, the emergency at this time is the fact that cold weather states are seeing a huge spike in home heating oil prices, which will put enormous financial pressure on millions of senior citizens and lower income people. Estimates are that the average residential user of heating oil is paying 23 percent more to heat their home than just a year ago. That means that just to keep pace with home heating oil inflation, cold weather states are going to need a 23 percent increase in allocation. In addition, the price of natural gas in some cold weather states has skyrocketed by over 180 percent during the past four years. Within that context, it makes no sense to distribute limited emergency LIHEAP funding during a home heating crisis to warmer weather states at the expense of states that are suffering through a real winter emergency. Further, we are writing to urge you to release the remaining \$101 million in emergency LIHEAP funding as soon as possible and with a *sensible* formula that targets the regions of the United States that are most in need.

In addition, we strongly urge you to recommend that Congress at least double the funding for LIHEAP as soon as it goes back into session. We are more than aware that people in virtually every state of the country are seeing significant increases in their heating needs. This is a national crisis that demands a significant increase in funding.

We are fortunate to live in the richest country on earth. We must do everything possible to make sure that no-one goes cold this winter and that no family or senior citizen has to make the unacceptable choice between heating their homes or putting food on the table.

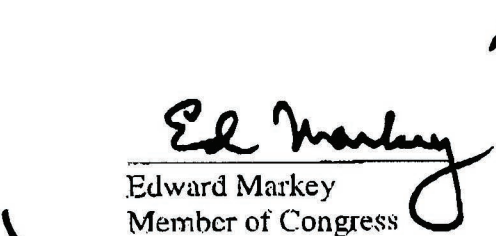
We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

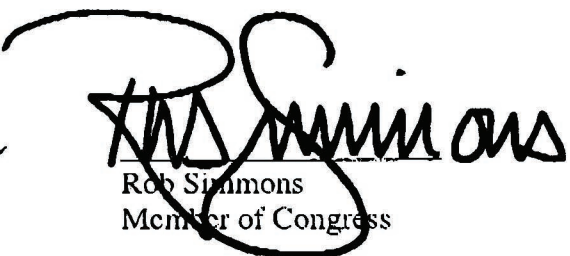
Sincerely,

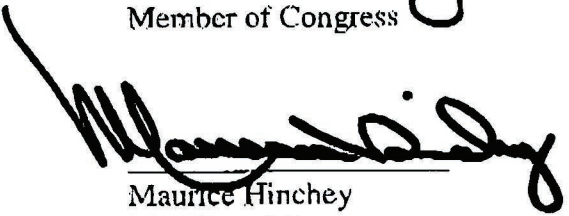
The block contains two handwritten signatures. On the left is the signature of Bernard Sanders, which is stylized and cursive. On the right is the signature of Sherwood Boehlert, also in cursive but more legible than Sanders'. Both signatures are written in black ink.

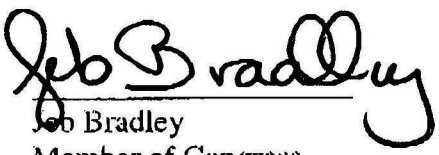
Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress

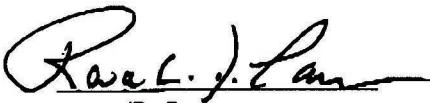
Sherwood Boehlert
Member of Congress


Edward Markey
Member of Congress

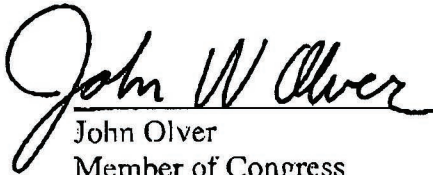

Rob Simmons
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



Joe Bradley
Member of Congress

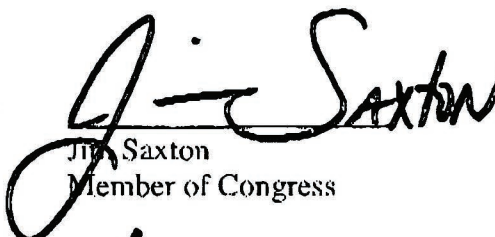

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress


Steven LaTourette
Member of Congress



John Olver
Member of Congress



James Walsh
Member of Congress

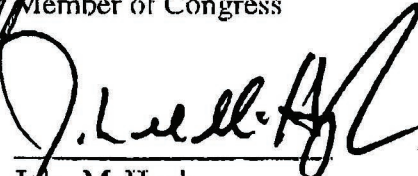

Michael Doyle
Member of Congress

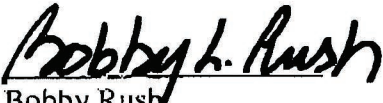

Jim Saxton
Member of Congress

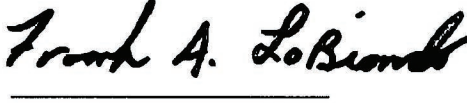

Thomas Allen
Member of Congress


Joe Schwarz
Member of Congress



Peter Visclosky
Member of Congress

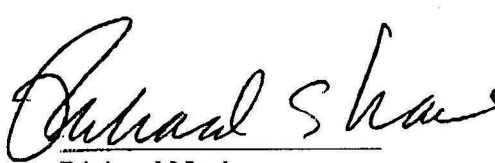


John McHugh
Member of Congress


Bobby Rush
Member of Congress


Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress


Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress


Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

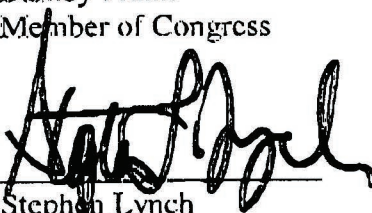
Michael Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



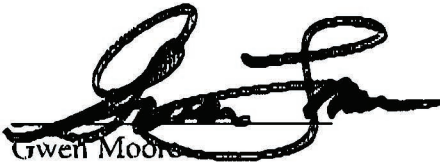
Nancy Johnson
Member of Congress



Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



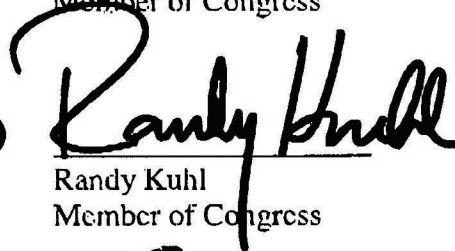
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Mike Ferguson
Member of Congress



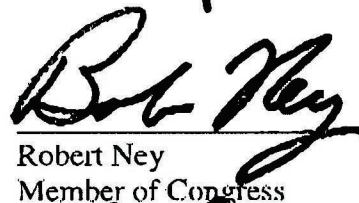
Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress



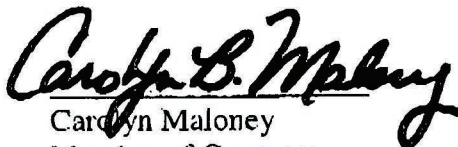
Randy Kuhl
Member of Congress



Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress




Robert Ney
Member of Congress




Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



Vito Fossella
Member of Congress



Martin McHugh
Member of Congress



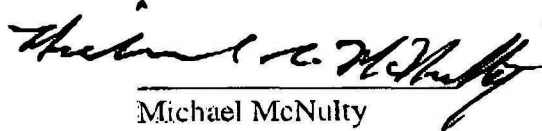
Mark Kennedy
Member of Congress



Benjamin Cardin
Member of Congress



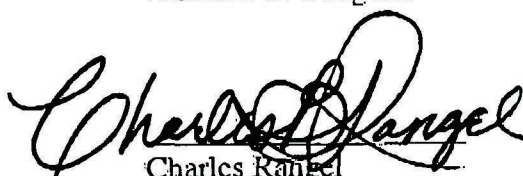
Christopher Shays
Member of Congress


Michael McNulty
Member of Congress

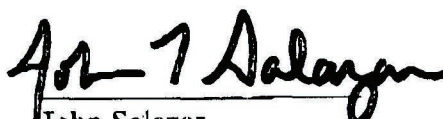

Dennis Rehberg
Member of Congress


James Langevin
Member of Congress


Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress


John Salazar
Member of Congress

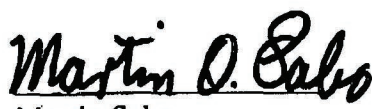

William Delahunt
Member of Congress


Julia Carson
Member of Congress

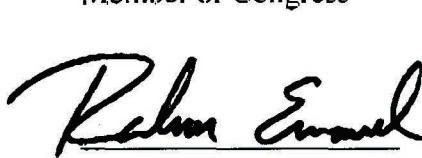

Robert Brady
Member of Congress

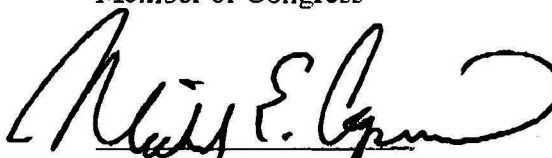

Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress


Martin Sabo
Member of Congress



Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress


Michael Capuano
Member of Congress


Ted Strickland
Member of Congress



Michael Michaud
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress


Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress


Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress


Robert Andrews
Member of Congress


James Oberstar
Member of Congress

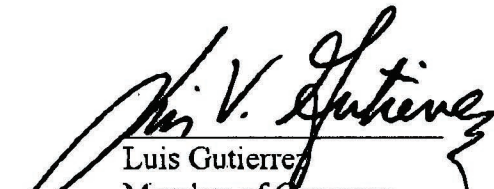

John Larson
Member of Congress


Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Tim Holden
Member of Congress

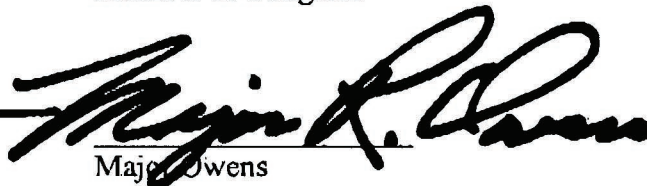

Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Luis Guterres
Member of Congress


Steve Israel
Member of Congress


Jose Serrano
Member of Congress


Major Owens
Member of Congress


Eliot Engel
Member of Congress


John Tierney
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Timothy Bishop
Member of Congress

Paul E. Kanjorski
Paul Kanjorski
Member of Congress

James McGovern
James McGovern
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Dale E. Kildee
Dale Kildee
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne
Donald Payne
Member of Congress

Mark Udall
Mark Udall
Member of Congress

Colin Smith

John E. Shulman

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